

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

Alerting a calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered by a user of a called telecommunication terminal. The incoming call is answered  
5 by the telecommunication terminal or a switching system to which the telecommunication terminal is connected in response to an input from the user when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call. An audio path of the answered call is muted from  
10 communication with the user. A message is transmitted to the calling party where the message is selected by the user.